

Nebraska's Report to the RRCA 2017 Annual Meeting – DRAFT

August 22, 2017

1. The State of Nebraska is in compliance
 - Efforts have resulted in full access to Kansas' allocations for Kansas water users
 - Nebraska's Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) contain forecasting provisions and controls that ensure Nebraska's compliance
 - Emphasize new resolution and how 68,000 trigger was met
 - The sum of water supplies available in the Kansas Account and the Kansas Supplemental account is greater than 68,000 AF
 - Thus, Nebraska's Compact compliance for 2017 shall not require an assessment based on two-year averaging.

2. The natural resources districts (NRDs) demonstrate commitment to compliance through investment in programs and projects that reduce or offset depletions
 - Nebraska has implemented a number of measures for Compact compliance in 2017 with the preliminary expectation that the two-year averaging period would be applicable.
 - The estimated yield from implementation of these measures is in excess of 20,000 AF
 - The measures implemented by Nebraska include the following:
 - The permanent retirement of the Riverside Canal Company
 - Augmentation of streamflows through the N-CORPE and Rock Creek augmentation projects
 - Bypassing natural flow diversion on Culbertson Canal
 - Releasing water from Enders Reservoir
 - Retirement of groundwater irrigated acres
 - The current projection of Nebraska's five-year average for 2017 is positive; therefore, Nebraska will not be required to implement additional measures for the 2017 compliance balance.

3. Water Sustainability Fund
 - For water projects aimed at addressing water quality and water quantity issues across Nebraska
 - Application period for the current cycle of funding was in July 2017
 - Applications are currently under review
 - Approximately \$15.6 million are available to commit in FY 2018
 - 24 grant applications submitted, requesting just over \$20.3 million
 - Of these, one was for a combined sewer overflow project that will receive funding as specified in statute
 - Of the remaining 23 applications, nine requested \$250,000 or less (small projects) and the remaining 14 were for requests over \$250,000 (large projects)

- Of the 23 applications under review, 7 are for projects in the Republican River Basin, requesting approximately \$9.3 million.

4. Republican River Basin-Wide Planning Process

- 11th stakeholder meeting held August 15 (last Tuesday)
- We anticipate that stakeholder meetings will continue at least into March of next year
- Several goals have been drafted, as well as related objectives and action items. NeDNR, the NRDs, and stakeholders are reviewing and revising these, and are also continuing to discuss ideas that may lead to additional goals.
- Many other sections of the plan are also in various stages of drafting and review.
- The plan must be completed, adopted, and take effect no later than April 2019.

5. In-state litigation update

6. Investments in the Basin

- Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District
- Nebraska Bostwick Irrigation District & related grants
- NRD investments
 - Platte-Republican Diversion project (Lower Republican and Tri-Basin NRDs)
 - Would connect E65 Canal in the Platte River Basin to Turkey Creek in the Republican River Basin
 - The feasibility study is complete
 - A water service agreement with CNPPID has been signed
 - They have applied for Water Sustainability Funds for the project
 - *(Scott Dicke will be at the meeting an available to answer any questions the commissioners may have)*
 - Permanent acreage retirement in Lower Republican NRD
 - LRNRD Rules and Regulations are being seriously enforced
 - This affirms the LRNRD commitment to the District's Integrated Management Plan with NeDNR through Groundwater Controls and Compliance Standards
- Compliment the Bureau and point to the direction we want them to go

7. Concluding remarks